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5/12/2011, Congressman Brooks Announces Boost to Missile-Defense, More Jobs for Tennessee Valley

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Washington, D.C. – Congressman Mo Brooks (R-AL) announced today the passage of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (HR 1540), including several key amendments offered by Mr. Brooks.

“The National Defense Authorization Act makes critical improvements to the 2012 budget, thereby enhancing our national defense,” said Congressman Brooks.

“In particular, Redstone Arsenal benefits from this budget. Ballistic missile defense is increased by \$109.7 million above the President’s requested \$10.1 billion,” said Brooks. “Other local projects also fared well. The Armed Services Committee increased expenditures for Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) by \$50 million, Ground-based Midcourse Defense (GMD) by \$100 million, and Standard Missile 3 (SM-3) development and production by \$90 million, all of which are managed out of Redstone Arsenal. These are important projects that will significantly strengthen our national missile defense capability through the support of the highly-skilled workforce here in North Alabama.”

Congressman Brooks proposed an amendment to the bill, which was accepted by the Committee, that bars sharing sensitive missile defense technologies with Russia. “I proposed this amendment because I believe it is imperative to our national security that our weapons technologies be protected, not used as bargaining chips in negotiations with the Russians,” Brooks said. “This amendment restricts Russian access to missile defense technologies, including many technologies that were developed at Redstone, and protects our nation by preventing other countries from reverse engineering ways to defeat our missile defense systems.”

Brooks continued, “I am thankful that the Committee approved my amendments to add \$40 million to the Defense Access Roads program, which will fund road construction and improve roads in and around BRAC military bases like Redstone Arsenal, and to add \$2.5 million to advanced aviation technology funding to develop unmanned aerial vehicle helicopter technology.”

“Overall,” said Brooks, “the Defense Authorization Act is good for our country and for North Alabama. By protecting our technologies and funding critical missile defense projects, Congress today ensured that America will continue to be a world leader in technological advances, and a safe and free place to live.”

Congressman Brooks' contributions to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 also included an amendment to grant waivers to Prototype Integration Facilities (PIFs). PIFs are Department of Defense owned and operated fabrication facilities which design, construct, and produce solutions to meet the warfighters' needs in limited quantities. The amendment would allow waivers for national security reasons and for rapid acquisition of equipment needed for emergency combat needs, thereby allowing Tennessee Valley contractors to perform greater workloads.